



KENTUCKY Council on postsecondary education

ACTIVITY REPORT

A communication from the chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education to the members of the governing boards of regents and trustees.

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from the Council chair . . .

Dear Governing Board Members:

It's been a busy year for postsecondary education. The General Assembly has completed its work and passed a favorable budget for postsecondary education. The Council just endorsed its new public agenda to guide the work of postsecondary and adult education for the foreseeable future. So our work continues.



I hope to see you at the May 22-23 Institute for Effective Governance spring board development seminar. This is an opportunity for governing board members to come together as a group to discuss important issues for our entire system of postsecondary education. Registration information and a preliminary agenda were sent to you by your institution's board secretary a few weeks ago. You will receive more information prior to the seminar.

Thanks for your continued support of postsecondary education.

Ronald Greenberg



COUNCIL ENDORSES PUBLIC AGENDA AND THE NEW FIVE QUESTIONS OF REFORM BEGINS WORK WITH INSTITUTIONS ON CAMPUS ACTION PLANS

Public Agenda. The Council on Postsecondary Education has endorsed a new public agenda for Kentucky's postsecondary and adult education system. This agenda reflects what was learned from an analysis which began in early 2004 of demographic, economic, and education data from 1997 to the present. It also incorporates the comments from concerned, engaged citizens all over the state. At the heart of this agenda are five new questions that emphasize the importance of maintaining affordable, high-quality postsecondary opportunities leading to more certificates and degrees, better jobs, and productive, meaningful lives. The five new questions will guide the work of the entire adult and postsecondary education system from 2005-2010.

Campus Action Plans & Missions Parameters. The Council staff is working with the institutions to develop campus action plans. Each plan will include: (1) the institution's House Bill 1 goal; (2) mission parameters that address the institution's academic emphases, degree level, student mix, admissions selectivity, and research and stewardship activities; (3) priority initiatives and activities over the period 2005-2010 that respond to each of the five questions; (4) indicators that the Council will use to monitor the institution's contribution to the advancement of the public agenda and pertinent House Bill 1 goals; and (5) the final set of benchmark institutions to be approved by the Council at its May 2005 meeting. The presidents and institutional staffs will involve the governing board members, faculty, and other campus groups in the development of these plans. Action plans also are being developed for the independent sector and the Council. The action plans will be approved along with the final version of the public agenda at the July CPE meeting.

NEW Five Questions of Postsecondary Reform

- Question 1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?
- Question 2. Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable for its citizens?
- Question 3. Do more Kentuckians have certificates and degrees?
- Question 4. Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?
- Question 5. Are Kentucky's people, communities, and economy benefiting?

The public agenda and related materials are on the Council's Web site at <http://cpe.ky.gov/publicagenda>.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FARES WELL IN STATE BUDGET

The budget passed during the 2005 legislative session provides \$1,011,108,900 in 2004-05 and \$1,106,065,300 in 2005-06 in state general funds for postsecondary education – a 10.2 percent increase for the biennium. Funding highlights for postsecondary education include:

- ▶ An \$81 million increase to base operating funds of the public postsecondary institutions over the biennium – an increase of approximately 9 percent for the institutions.
- ▶ Dedicated revenue of \$4.3 million from a one-cent surtax on cigarettes to be evenly divided between the University of Kentucky's Markey Cancer Center and the University of Louisville's Brown Cancer Center.
- ▶ A \$500,000 nonrecurring appropriation in 2004-05 for an oral history program at the University of Kentucky.
- ▶ An increase of \$2.5 million in 2005-06 for the Adult Education and Literacy Trust Fund to restore past budget reductions.
- ▶ \$18.5 million in 2005-06 for the Physical Facilities Trust Fund in debt service for capital projects. For a list of the capital projects, go to http://cpe.ky.gov/council/CPE_Mtg_mats/mar2005/20050321_BudgetUpdate.pdf.



QUESTION 1: ARE MORE KENTUCKIANS READY FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION?

KYAE ESTABLISHES ANNUAL ENROLLMENT GOALS

Kentucky Adult Education has set a 2005-06 statewide enrollment goal of 125,000 students, which includes students enrolled in adult basic education, workforce education, English as a second language, GED preparation, family literacy, Workforce Alliance, and corrections education. In 2004, KYAE enrolled 120,051 students, exceeding the enrollment goal of 100,000. The current year enrollment goal is 115,000. Adult education providers were notified of the statewide enrollment goal and the county program goal of 11 percent of the target population for core services, including a family literacy goal of the higher of 0.5 percent or 20.



QUESTION 2: Is KENTUCKY POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AFFORDABLE FOR ITS CITIZENS?

COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER TUITION RATES AT MAY MEETING

The president or a representative for each public postsecondary institution and the community/technical college system presented information regarding planned tuition increases for next fiscal year at the April 12 Council Executive Committee meeting. The reports included the anticipated increase in tuition and revenue as well as analyses regarding the process by which rates were determined, how ability to pay was considered, how the increase in state funding was considered, and the proposed uses of funds. The Council directed the Council staff to do more detailed analyses concerning the proposed rates with regard to affordability concerns and to develop specific recommendations to be considered by the full Council at its May 22 meeting.

COUNCIL STUDIES COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

The Council is engaged in two studies to examine affordability for students to attend postsecondary institutions. Kentucky was chosen to participate in a two-year project undertaken by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) to investigate how decision makers can best align tuition, financial aid, and state appropriations policies with the goal of improving access to college, especially for low-income students. As a fundamental component of Kentucky's participation in the WICHE project, the Council has contracted with JBL Associates, Inc., based in Bethesda, Maryland, to perform a comprehensive study on the affordability of Kentucky's postsecondary education system. An interim progress report will be presented to the Council in May, with a final report in September.

COUNCIL WORK GROUP LOOKS AT FUNDING ADEQUACY

A Council work group has begun work to develop a long-term financing strategy for Kentucky's system of postsecondary education.



QUESTION 3: DO MORE KENTUCKIANS HAVE CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES?

Updated results for the Council's indicators used to measure progress toward postsecondary education reform goals show that Kentucky continues to make progress toward reform goals but at a slower pace than in recent years.

- ▶ Undergraduate enrollment continues to increase at the statewide level, rising 1 percent to 202,605 students in fall 2004. Enrollments increased at six of the public institutions (EKU, KSU, UK, UofL, WKU, and KCTCS) and at the independent institutions.
- ▶ Graduate and first-professional enrollment in 2004 did not meet the state's goal. Three institutions (NKU, UofL, and WKU) exceeded their goals for 2004. Murray State increased graduate enrollment from the prior year but not enough to meet its 2004 goal. Enrollment at four universities (EKU, KSU, MoSU, and UK) decreased, contributing to a state total that was 292 students short of the goal.
- ▶ The percentage of GED completers enrolling in postsecondary education within two years increased by one percentage point over the college-going rate of the previous GED cohort. The fiscal year 2002 cohort included a record high number of GED graduates (14,596) and by 2004 over 3,000 of these graduates had enrolled in Kentucky's postsecondary institutions, producing a 21 percent college-going rate.
- ▶ Between 2003 and 2004, the first-year student retention rate for the system rose from 68.3 percent to 69.1 percent.
- ▶ Retention rates increased at EKU, KSU, MuSU, UK, and KCTCS.
- ▶ The number of students transferring out of the two-year institutions met the state goal but the number of students transferring into the four-year public institutions did not. The number of students transferring from the KCTCS (now including Lexington Community College) to any Kentucky public or independent four-year institution rose to 3,239, an increase of 9.8 percent over 2003. The public universities enrolled 2,498 transfer students from the community and technical colleges in 2004, an increase of 5.4 percent over 2003. The number of transfers at KSU, MuSU, UofL, and WKU increased. EKU, MoSU, and NKU showed increases but not large enough to meet their goals. The number of students transferring to UK declined by nearly 10 percent.
- ▶ Six-year graduation rates of bachelor's degree students dropped from 45.3 percent in 2003 to 44.3 percent in 2004. MuSU, NKU, and WKU showed increases while the remaining five institutions reported declines in the baccalaureate graduation rate between 2003 and 2004.

Over the next several months, the Council staff will work with the institutions to develop recommendations for the new key indicators and goals that will support the 2005 public agenda.



Spring Board Development Seminar

Why It All Matters:

Perspectives From Those We Serve

May 22-23, 2005

Lexington Marriott Griffin Gate Resort



QUESTION 4: ARE COLLEGE GRADUATES PREPARED FOR LIFE AND WORK IN KENTUCKY?

QUESTION 5: ARE KENTUCKY'S PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMY BENEFITING?

KENTUCKY INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS TO PRODUCE GOOD CITIZENS

One of the most important goals of reform is to produce college graduates who are prepared to be productive citizens and apply their knowledge in service to their communities.

George Mehaffy, vice president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, told the Council at its March meeting that the goal of the American Democracy Project is to produce graduates who understand and are committed to engaging in meaningful actions as citizens in a democracy. The ADP is a multi-campus initiative that seeks to create an intellectual and experiential understanding of civic engagement for undergraduates enrolled at institutions that are members of the AASCU. Kentucky institutions participating are EKU, KSU, MoSU, MuSU, NKU, and WKU. For more information about the American Democracy Project, go to <http://aascu.org/programs/adp/about/default.htm>.

The Kentucky Campus Compact, headquartered at Northern Kentucky University, is a statewide coalition of Kentucky college and university presidents and their institutions, both public and private, dedicated to promoting the civic purposes of higher education. KYCC members are committed to integrating service learning as a valued component of effective teaching and learning, meeting institutional civic responsibilities to help address the needs of the Commonwealth, and fostering the development of relevant collaborative partnerships between and among campuses.

COUNCIL APPROVES DATA ACCESS POLICY

The Council receives a significant amount of personally confidential student information from public and private institutions. In order to safeguard that information and to comply with federal law on the protection of information, the Council recently approved a data access policy. The policy outlines the rules that the Council staff will abide by in collecting and using personally identifiable information. The policy recognizes the Council's responsibility to conform fully to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The policy can be viewed on the Council's Web site at http://cpe.ky.gov/policies/policies_datapolicy.asp.

Kentucky's postsecondary education system encompasses nine public institutions, numerous independent institutions, and Kentucky Adult Education. The system represents 231,612 students, 538,866 Kentucky alumni, and 294,896 GED recipients. When Kentuckians earn postsecondary degrees, their skills improve and their wages go up; they are more likely to lead healthy lives and be engaged in their communities; and they build better futures for themselves and for their families.

2005 CPE MEETING CALENDAR

MEETING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

For information about CPE meetings, contact Phyllis Bailey at 502.573.1555 x284 or phyllis.bailey@ky.gov. Meeting materials are available on the Council's Web site at www.cpe.ky.gov/aboutus_council_meetings_materials.asp.

May 22-23 - CPE meeting and IEG Spring Board Development Seminar, Marriott Griffin Gate Resort, Lexington, Kentucky

July 18 - CPE meeting, KCTCS Offices, Versailles, Kentucky

September 18-19 - CPE meeting and Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship, Marriott Downtown, Louisville

November 7 - CPE meeting (location tbd)

ELECTRONIC VERSION AVAILABLE

Activity reports will be posted on the Council's Web site. Let us know if you would prefer to view future issues online by sending your e-mail address to Phyllis Bailey at phyllis.bailey@ky.gov. You will receive an e-mail notification when the activity reports are online.

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